



BY
FRANK MILLER
AND DAVID
MAZZUCHELLI

YEAR ONE PART 1

BATMAN

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THE
HISTORY
OF THE
DC
UNIVERSE
is *must*
reading

M A Z Z U C C H E L L I

He will become the
greatest crimefighter
the world has ever known...

It won't be easy.

BATMAN[®] YEAR ONE

BY
FRANK MILLER
AND
DAVID MAZZUCHELLI

Adapted from the works of
Bob Kane, Bill Finger
and Jerry Robinson

CHAPTER ONE: WHO I AM HOW I COME TO BE

Richmond Lewis: Colorist
Todd Klein: Letterer
Denny O'Neil: Editor

Batman created by Bob Kane



January 4

Gotham City.

Maybe it's all
I deserve, now.

Maybe it's just
my time in Hell.

Twelve hours. My
stomach's been
trying to eat itself
for the last five.

Barbara's flying
in. I don't care
how much it costs.

Train's no way to
come to Gotham...

...in an airplane,
from above, all
you'd see are the
streets and
buildings.

Fool you into
thinking it's
civilized.

...BEGINNING OUR
FINAL DESCENT TO
GOTHAM CITY. PLEASE
RETURN SEATS AND TRAYS
TO THEIR UPRIGHT
POSITIONS...

From here, it's
clean shafts of
concrete and
snowy rooftops.
The work of men
who died
generations
ago.

From here, it looks like an achievement.

I should have taken
the train. I should
be closer.

I should
see the
ENEMY.



By now Barbara's gotten her tests back. I only hate myself a little for hoping they can... not negative.

This is no place to raise a family.

NICE BOOK FOR A SMALL DONATION--

NO, PLEASE--

GORDON!

LIEUTENANT JAMES GORDON!



NICE BOOK-- LOOK AT THE PICTURES-- GAA~

WALK, SKINHEAD.

NAME'S FLASS, LIEUTENANT. DETECTIVE FLASS. COMMISSIONER LOEB SENT ME TO MAKE SURE YOU DIDN'T MISS YOUR APPOINTMENT WITH HIM.

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I CALL YOU JIMMY.



WELL, I--

NICE --koff-- COLORS...

WELCOME TO GOTHAM, JIMMY. IT'S NOT AS BAD AS IT LOOKS. ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE A COP.

COPS GOT IT MADE IN GOTHAM.



--WELCOME HOME, MR. WAYNE--

--HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE BACK--

--PRINCESS CAROLINE--

--ANY TRUTH TO THE RUMORS--

--ANY PLANS, MR. WAYNE--

THE TWENTY-FIVE-YEAR-OLD HEIR TO THE WAYNE MILLIONS DECLINED TO COMMENT ON RUMORS OF ROMANCE IN HIS LIFE...

...OR ON HIS PLANS ON HIS RETURN TO GOTHAM AFTER TWELVE YEARS ABROAD. WE'LL KEEP YOU POSTED ON GOTHAM'S RICHEST--AND BEST LOOKING--NATIVE SON. TOM?



THANK YOU, JACKIE. FOLLOWING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF A KEY WITNESS, ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY HARVEY DENT HAS WITHDRAWN CONSPIRACY CHARGES AGAINST POLICE COMMISSIONER LOEB...



YOU KNOW WE'RE ALL DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU ON THE TEAM, LIEUTENANT.

GILLIAN B. LOEB
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

YOU'LL GET MY BEST WORK, SIR. I PROMISE.

AND WE ARE A TEAM. A TEAM NEEDS TEAM SPIRIT, DON'T YOU THINK?

YES IT DOES. AND YOUR RECORD SHOWS YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES.

I KNOW I'VE MADE MY MISTAKES, SIR. I'M GRATEFUL FOR THIS CHANCE TO PROVE MYSELF...

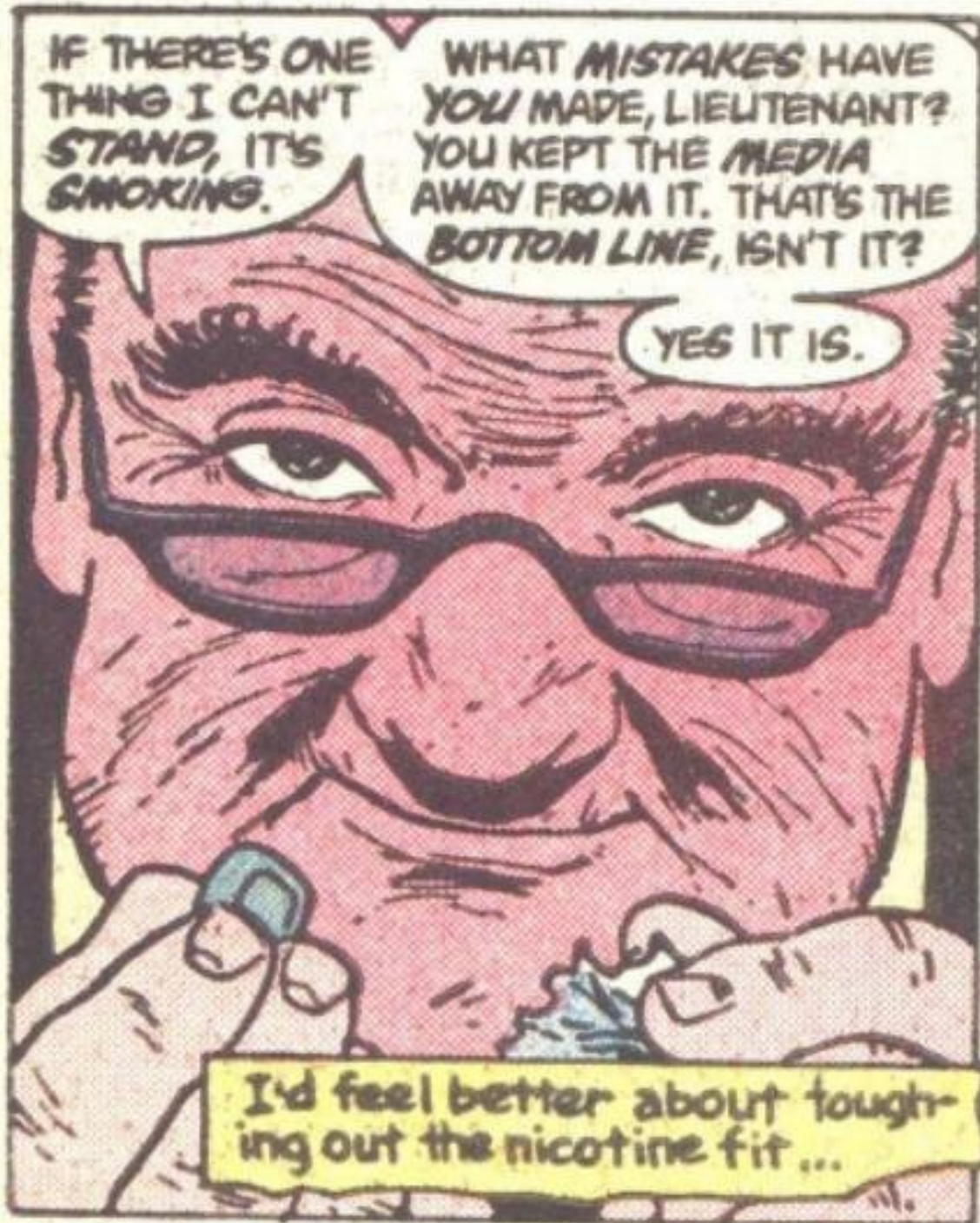


IF THERE'S ONE THING I CAN'T STAND, IT'S SMOKING.

WHAT MISTAKES HAVE YOU MADE, LIEUTENANT? YOU KEPT THE MEDIA AWAY FROM IT. THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE, ISN'T IT?

YES IT IS.

I'd feel better about toughing out the nicotine fit...



...if I didn't have to smell those Eucalyptus Cough Drops of his...

I SWEAR YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MY HONESTY, COMMISSIONER.

LAST THING ON MY MIND. LAST THING.



Wayne Manor.

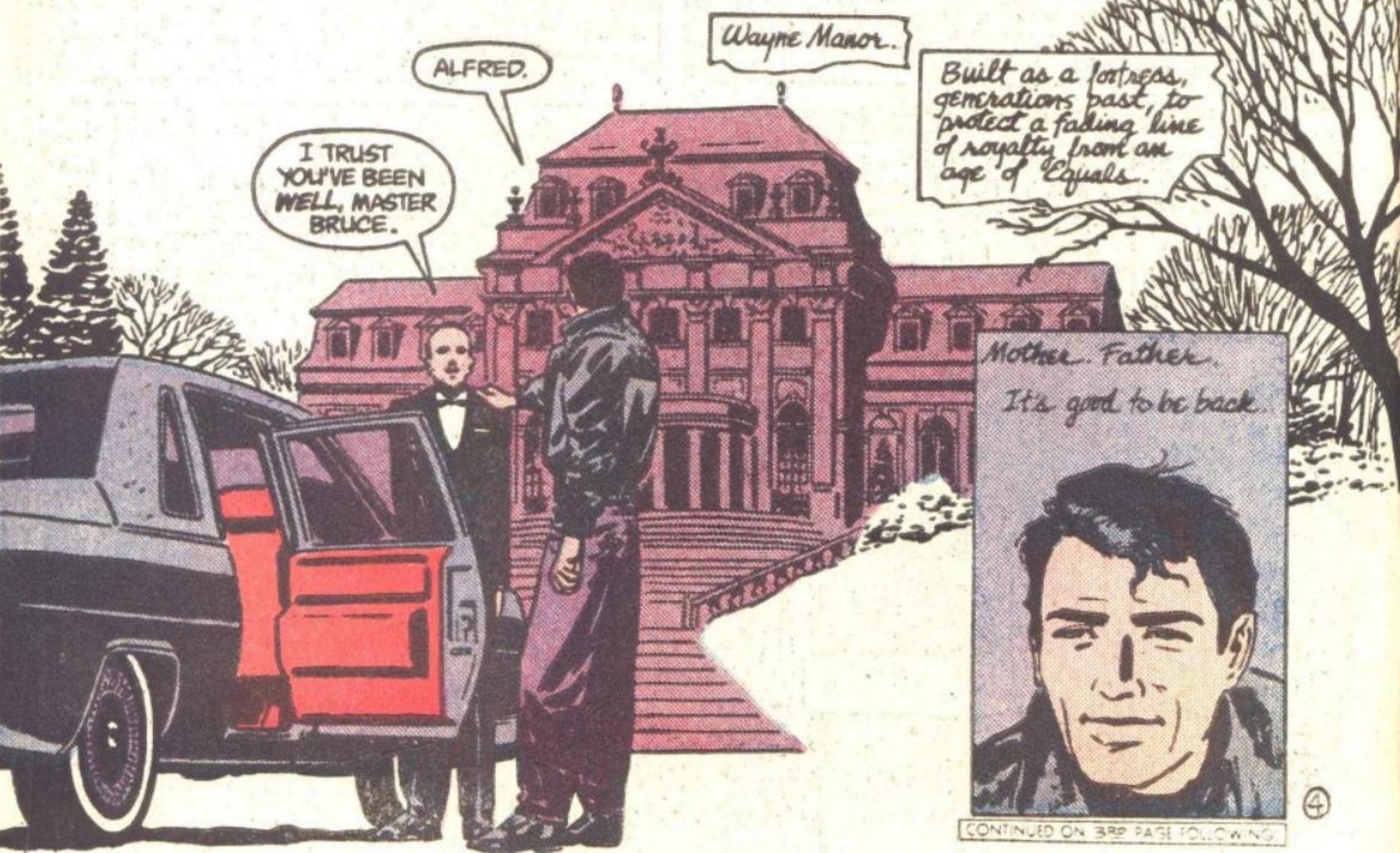
ALFRED.

I TRUST YOU'VE BEEN WELL, MASTER BRUCE.

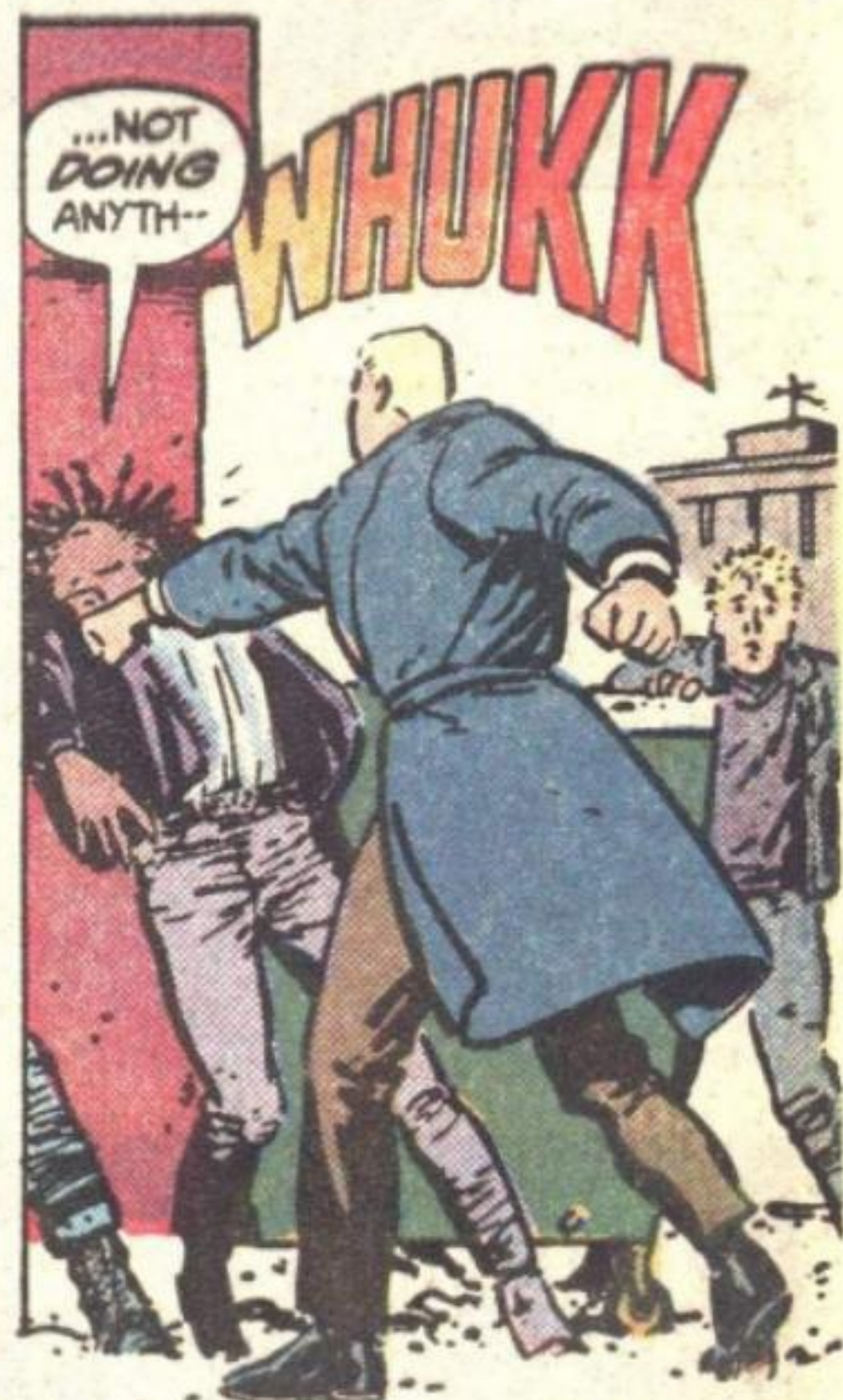
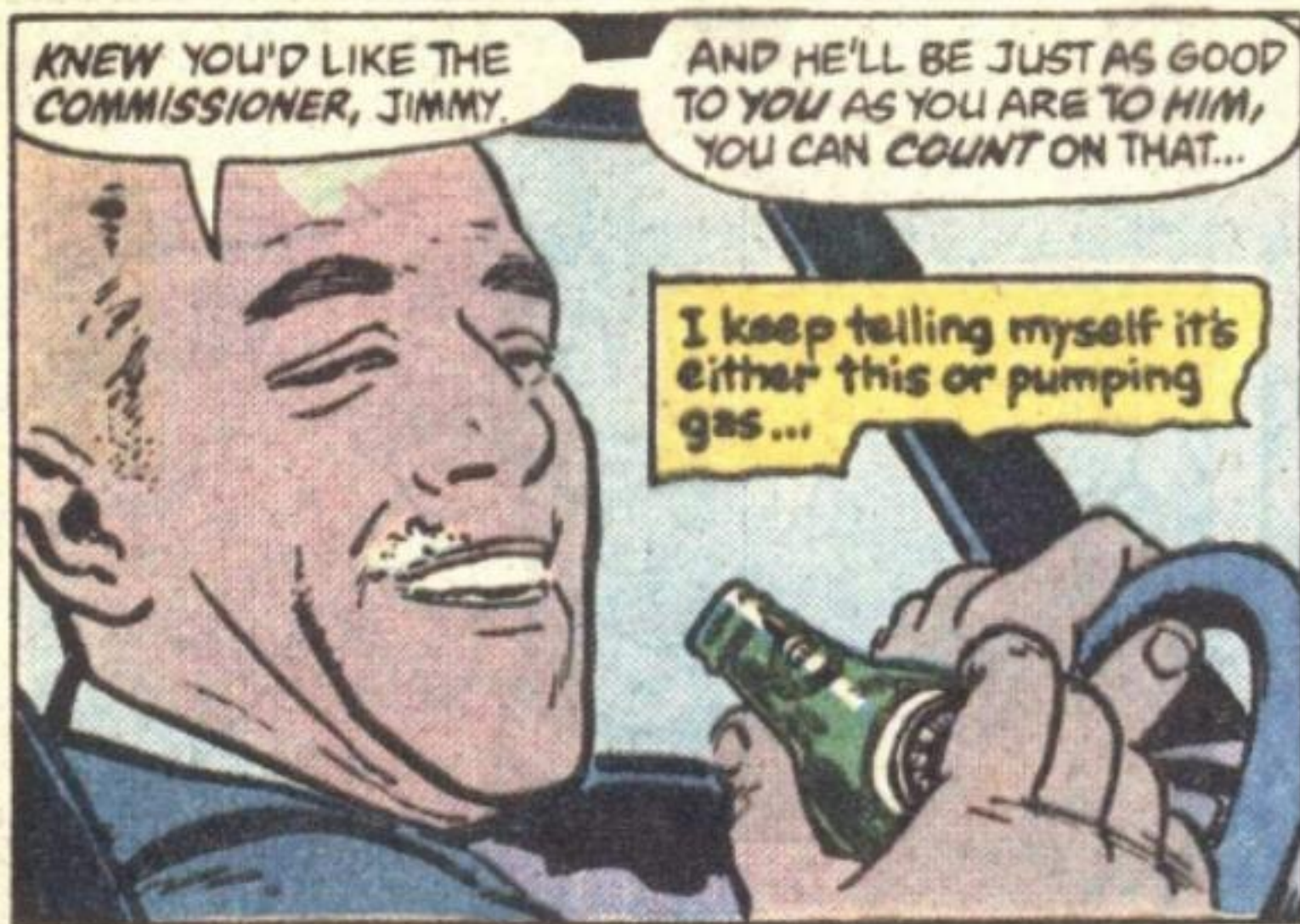
Built as a fortress, generations past, to protect a fading line of royalty from an age of Equals.

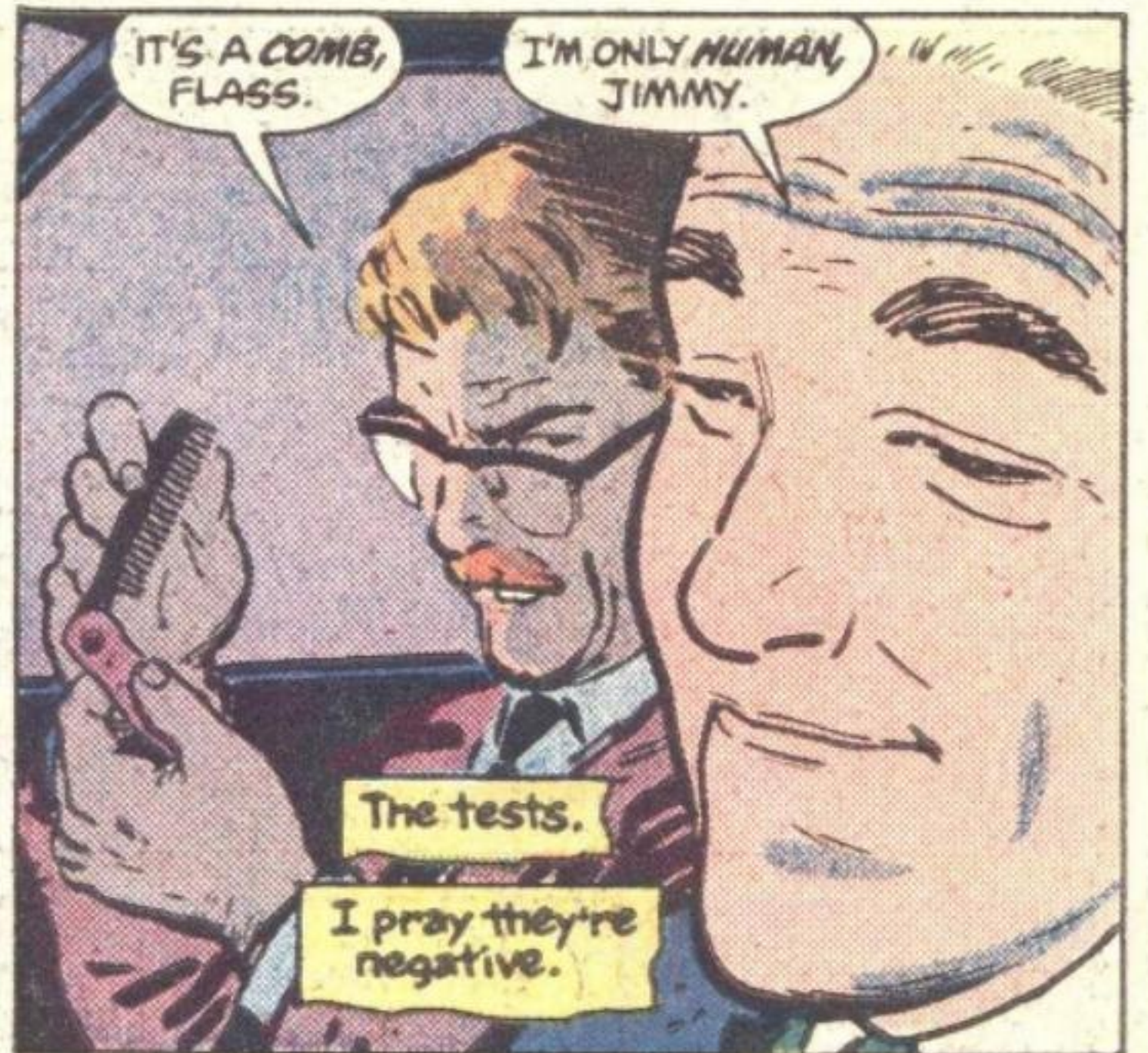
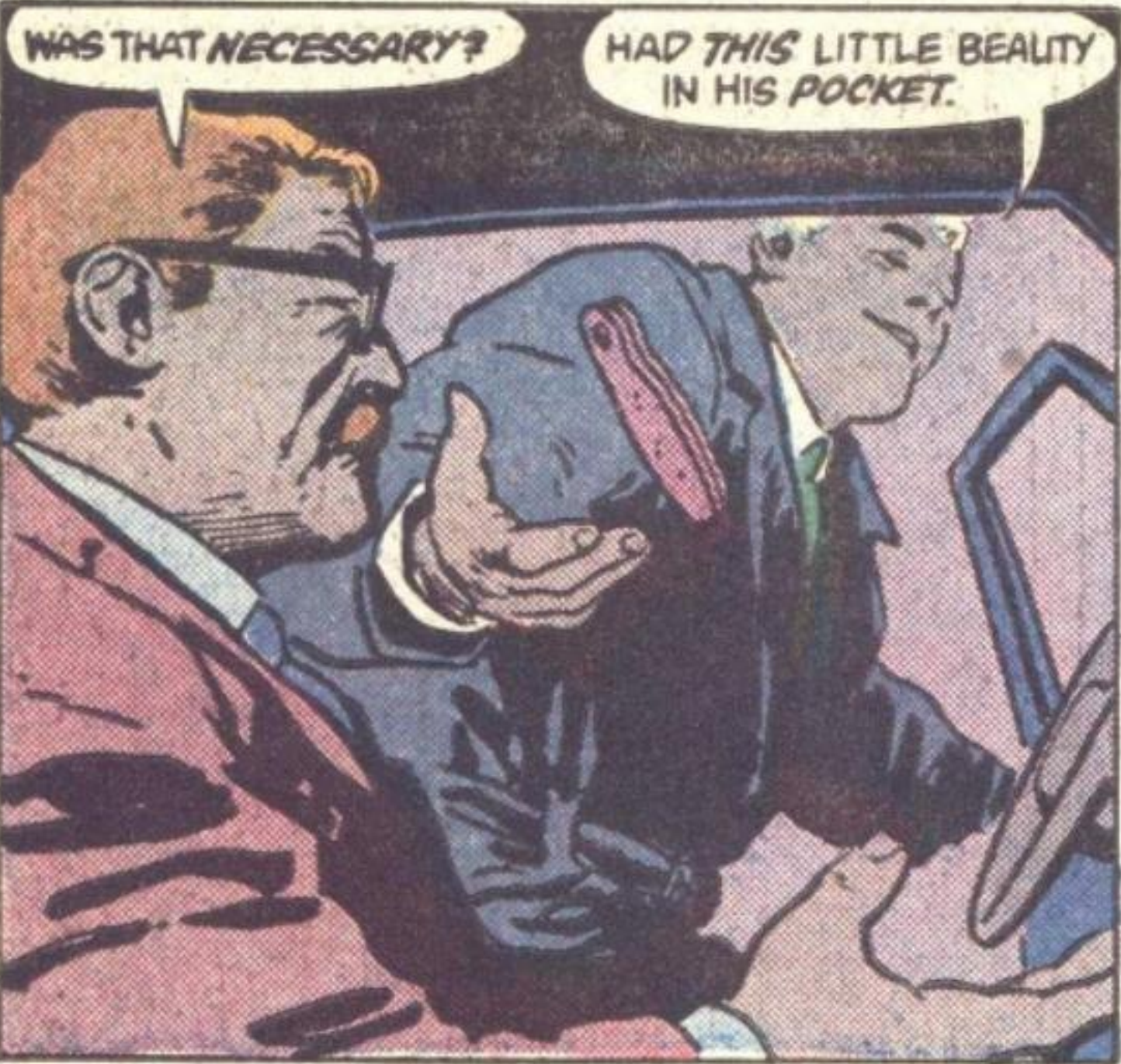
Mother. Father.

It's good to be back.



CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.





February 12



February 21

I'm not ready.



I have the means, the skill -- but not the method...



...no. That's not true. I have hundreds of methods.

But something's missing. Something isn't right.



I have to wait.

I have to wait.

February 26

...SO FATHER DONELLEY, HE SLIPS GORDON A FIFTY WITH THE HANDSHAKE...

GILLIAN B. L.
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

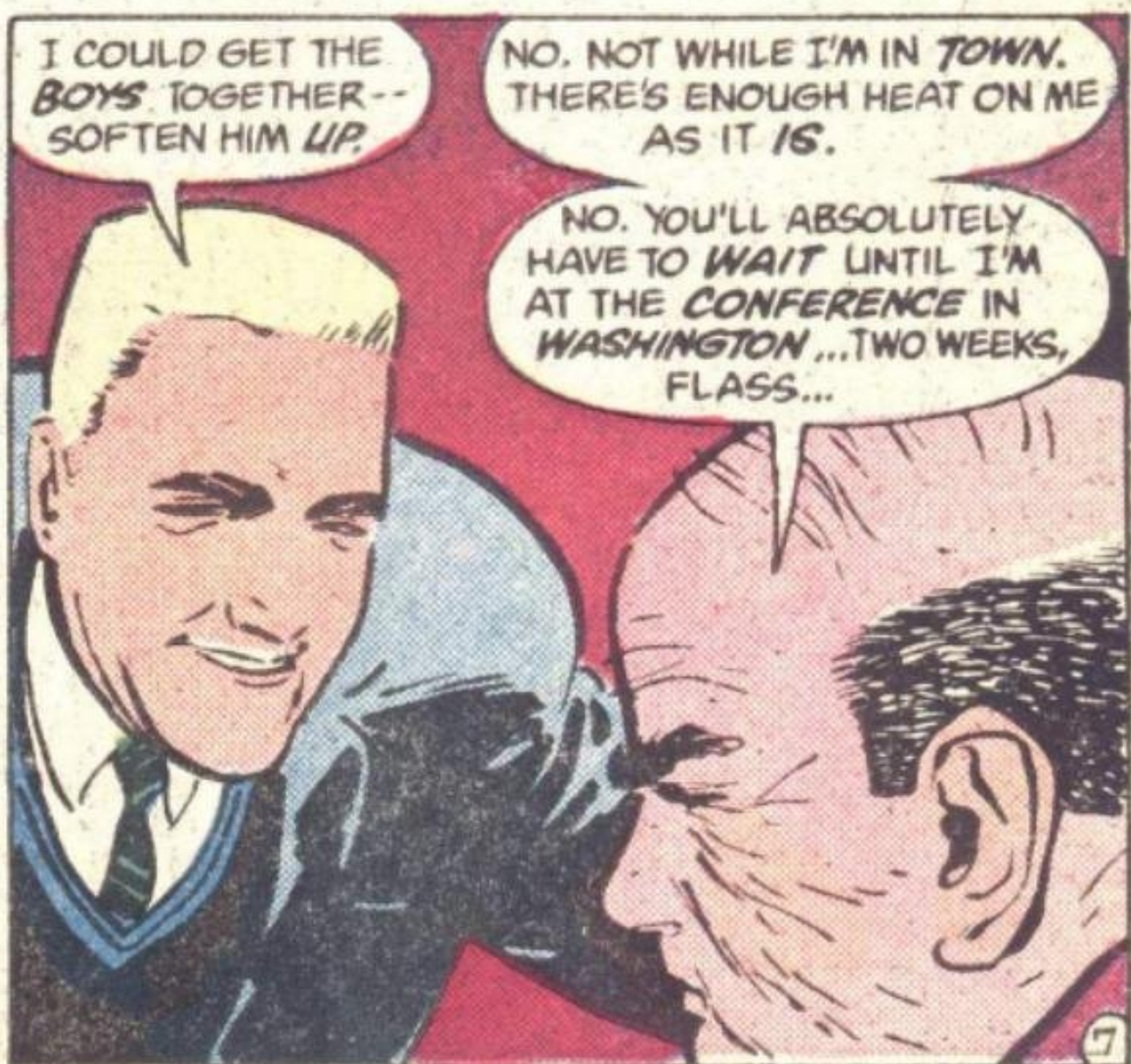


...AND GORDON, HE LOOKS AT IT LIKE HIS HAND'S GOT A DISEASE. THEN HE THROWS THE FIFTY IN THE PADRE'S FACE.

GIVES THE SQUAD A TWO-HOUR LECTURE. PUTS SCHELL ON PROBATION.

HE'S JUST NOT FITTING IN, GILL.

I HAD SUCH HOPES FOR THAT BOY...



I COULD GET THE BOYS TOGETHER -- SOFTEN HIM UP.

NO. NOT WHILE I'M IN TOWN. THERE'S ENOUGH HEAT ON ME AS IT IS.

NO. YOU'LL ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL I'M AT THE CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON... TWO WEEKS, FLASS...

March 11

The engine hums, gently, not quite convinced it should stop.

Everything is in place. The attendant was even obliging enough to ask me for my autograph. My alibi is set.

Bruce Wayne has been sighted at the same hotel as a visiting Hollywood sex queen. That should generate sufficient rumors--

--to account for my whereabouts for the next few hours.



This is a reconnaissance mission. Until I know more, I must avoid combat. Until I'm ready...

...my anonymity is an obvious priority. The murder of my parents is a matter of public record.



All it requires is a change in clothing and complexion--

--and a single, memorable, distracting detail.



Requested off this night shift four times now-- damn it, Barbara needs me at night these days, Barbara, and little James...

...so I hope it's a boy. So what.

Four times and no reply. I'm not making friends in the department--



GOING TO WORK, LIEUTENANT?

GOING TO BE LATE.

MAY HAVE TO SKIP THE WHOLE NIGHT.



Old trick--talking
to distract me--

--should've checked my
military record--

--but
then--

--it's been
a while--

--guarantees
an attack from
behind--

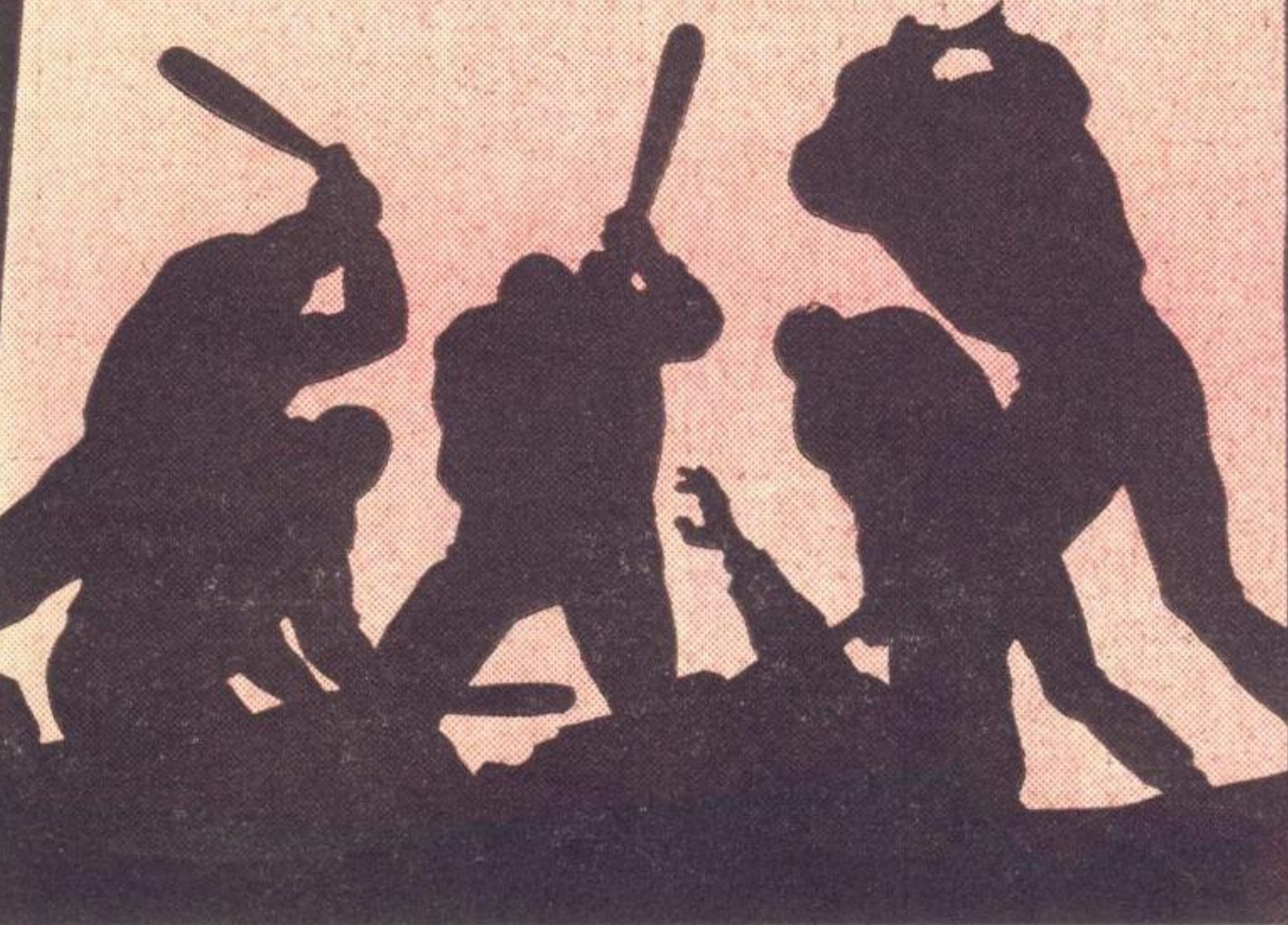
--I was taught to handle
worse than this--



Somewhere in the middle
of it they tell me it's
just a warning.

They remind me
that I've got a
pregnant wife.

Toward the end
I hear a
familiar chuckle.



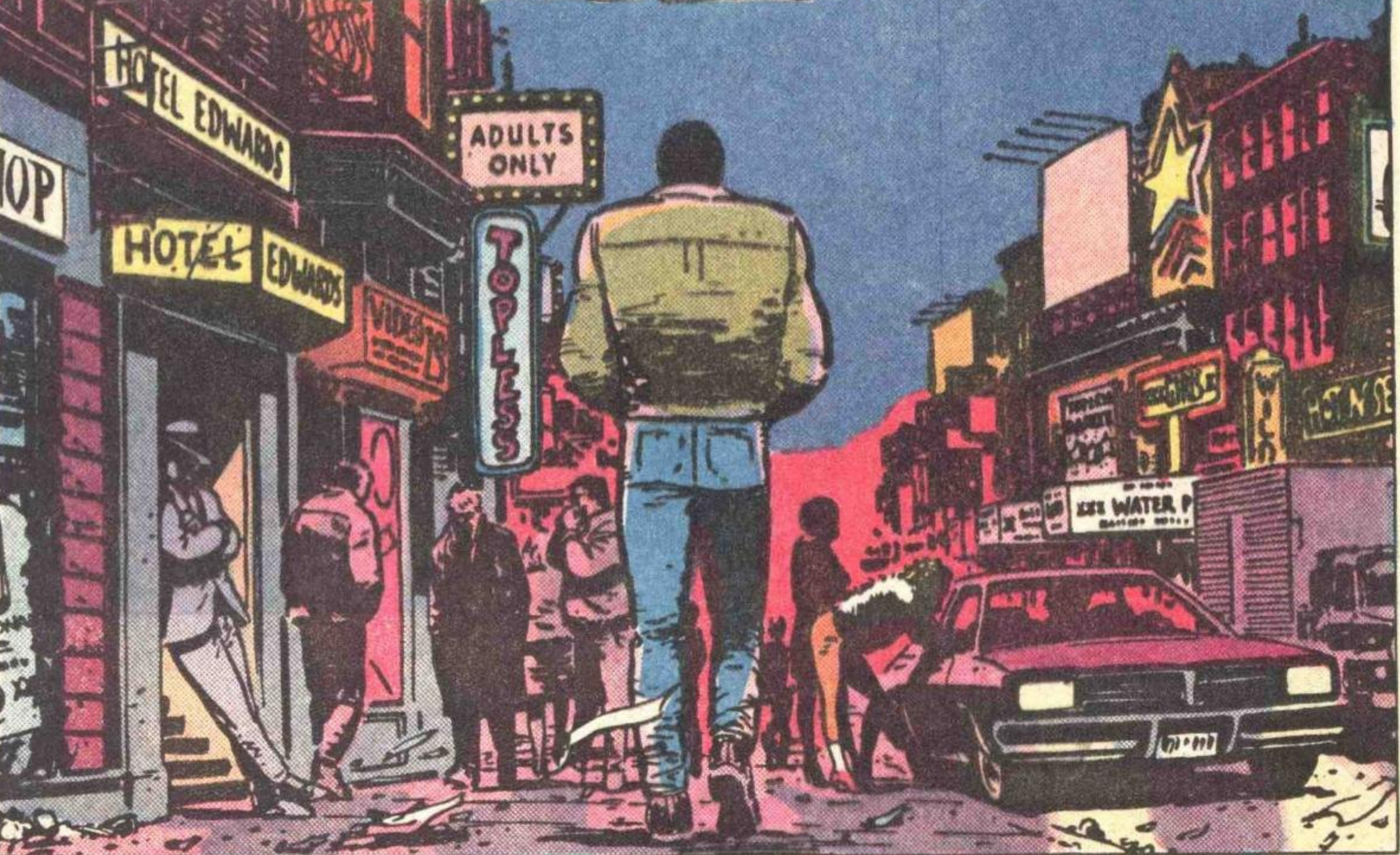
Flass.

It's a twenty block walk to the enemy camp.

It's been educational. I was sized up like a piece of meat by the leather boys in Robinson Park. I waded through pleas and half hearted threats from junkies at the Finger Memorial. I stepped across a field of human rubble that lay sleeping in front of the overcrowded Sprang Mission.

Finally, the worst of it.

The East End.



Hard to believe it's gotten worse.



I DOUBT IT. HOW OLD ARE YOU?

YOUNG AS YOU WANT ME TO BE.

STUPID B--THAS ALL WRONG, HOLLY. YOU DOIN' IT WRONG.



DID WHAT YOU SAID. JUST LIKE--

THAS RIGHT, HONEY. BUT YOU GOT TO PICK YOU TYPES. GOT TO KNOW WHICH ONES WANT WHAT YOU GOT.

THIS ONE'S NOT--



I HAVEN'T SAID, HAVE I?

THAT VICE I SMELL?

THAT CRAZY VET BIT--THAS OLD, MAN.



I'M NOT THE POLICE.

BELIEVE ME.



YOU STILL HERE?
TOLD YOU TO
GO, HOLLY.

HE HADN'T
SAID.



WE TALK THIS
OVER LATER,
SWEET CHUNKS.

NO...



...I THINK YOU'RE
FINISHED WITH
HER.

I'm provoking
him.

I really shouldn't.



MAN, YOU PUSHIN.
YOU ON THE EDGE.

YOU LOOKIN' FOR
A NEW SCAR. THAS
RIGHT. JUS TELL ME
WHERE, MAN...



OH. GEEZ...CAN'T BE
VICE. WE'RE PAID UP.
JUST SOME IDIOT OUT
TO GET HIMSELF
KILLED.

SELINA...
DON'T STOP
NOW...



SHUT UP,
SKUNK.

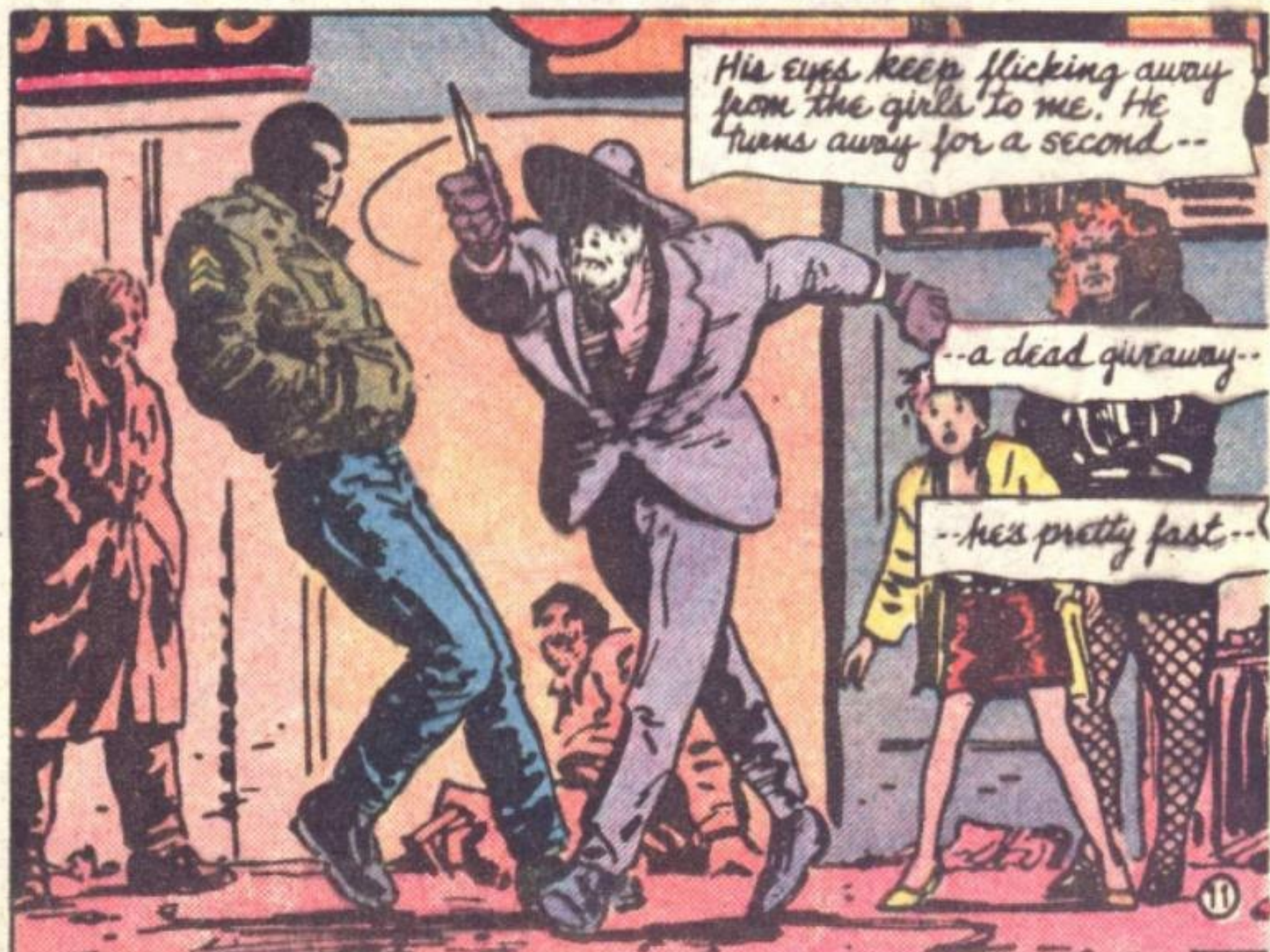
YOU KNOW WHAT
I HATE MOST ABOUT
MEN, SKUNK?

PLEASE,
SELINA... TELL
ME... WHY YOU
HATE US SO...
ON, PLEASE...



NEVER MET ONE.

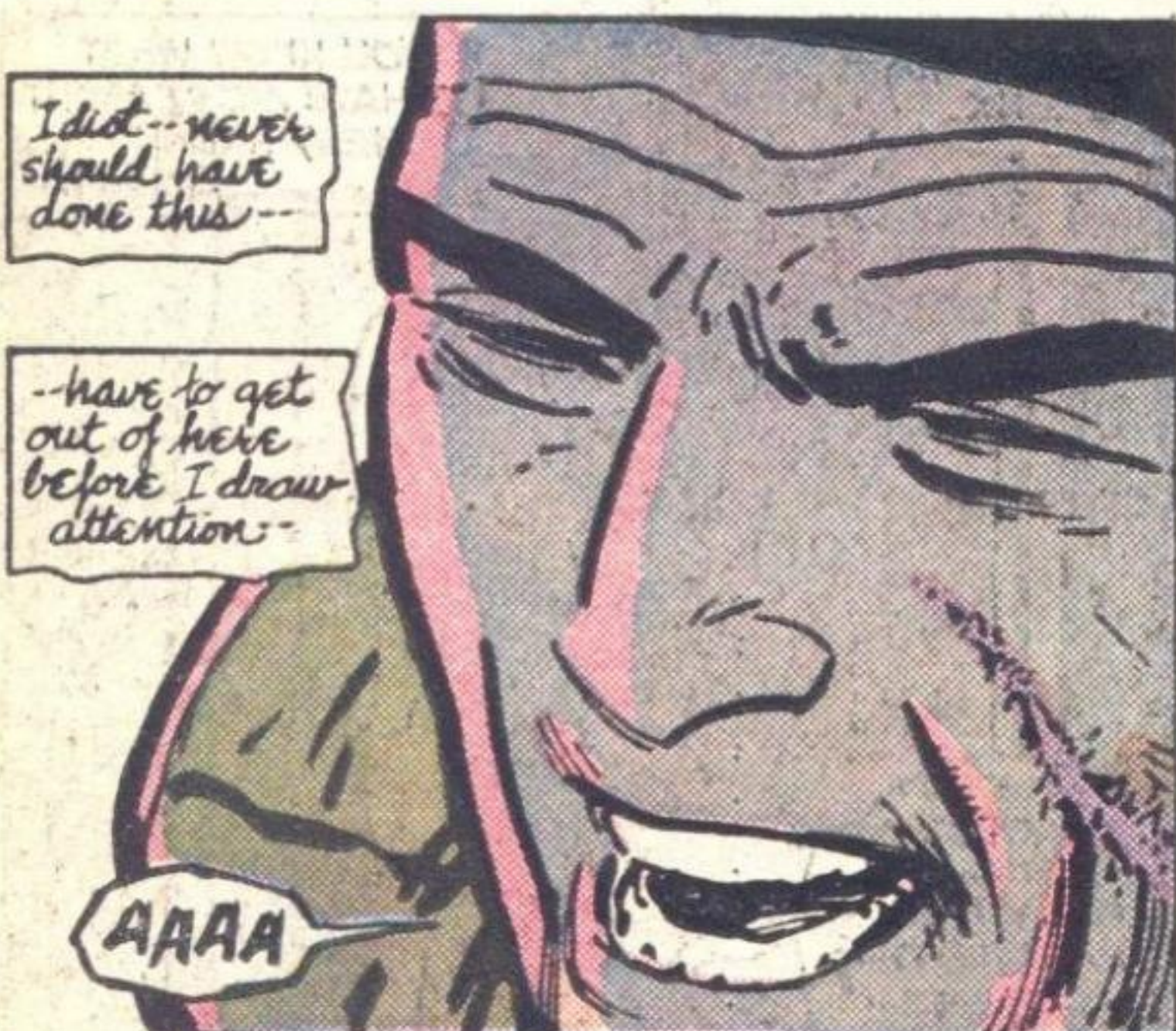
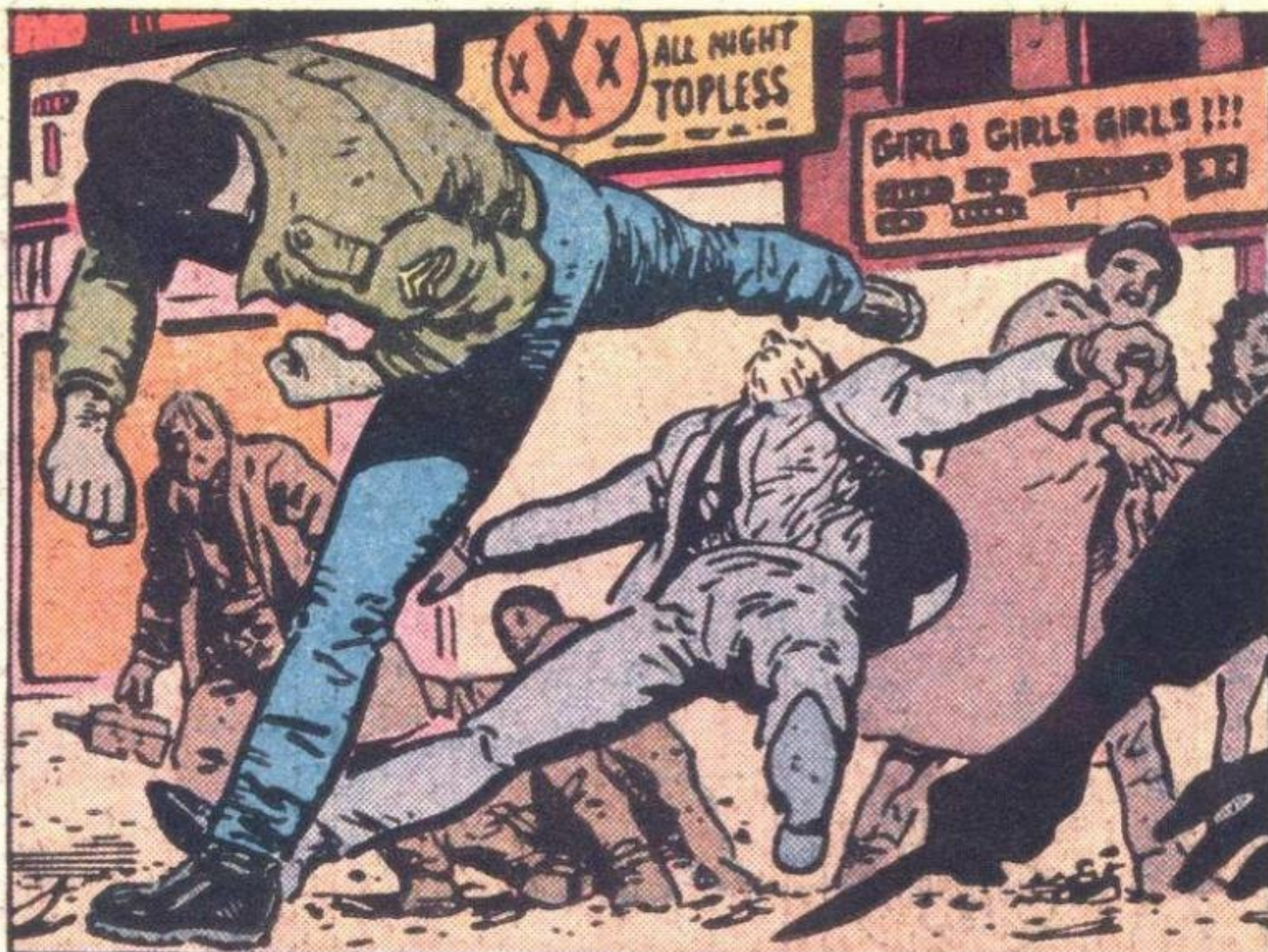
SAY IT
AGAIN...

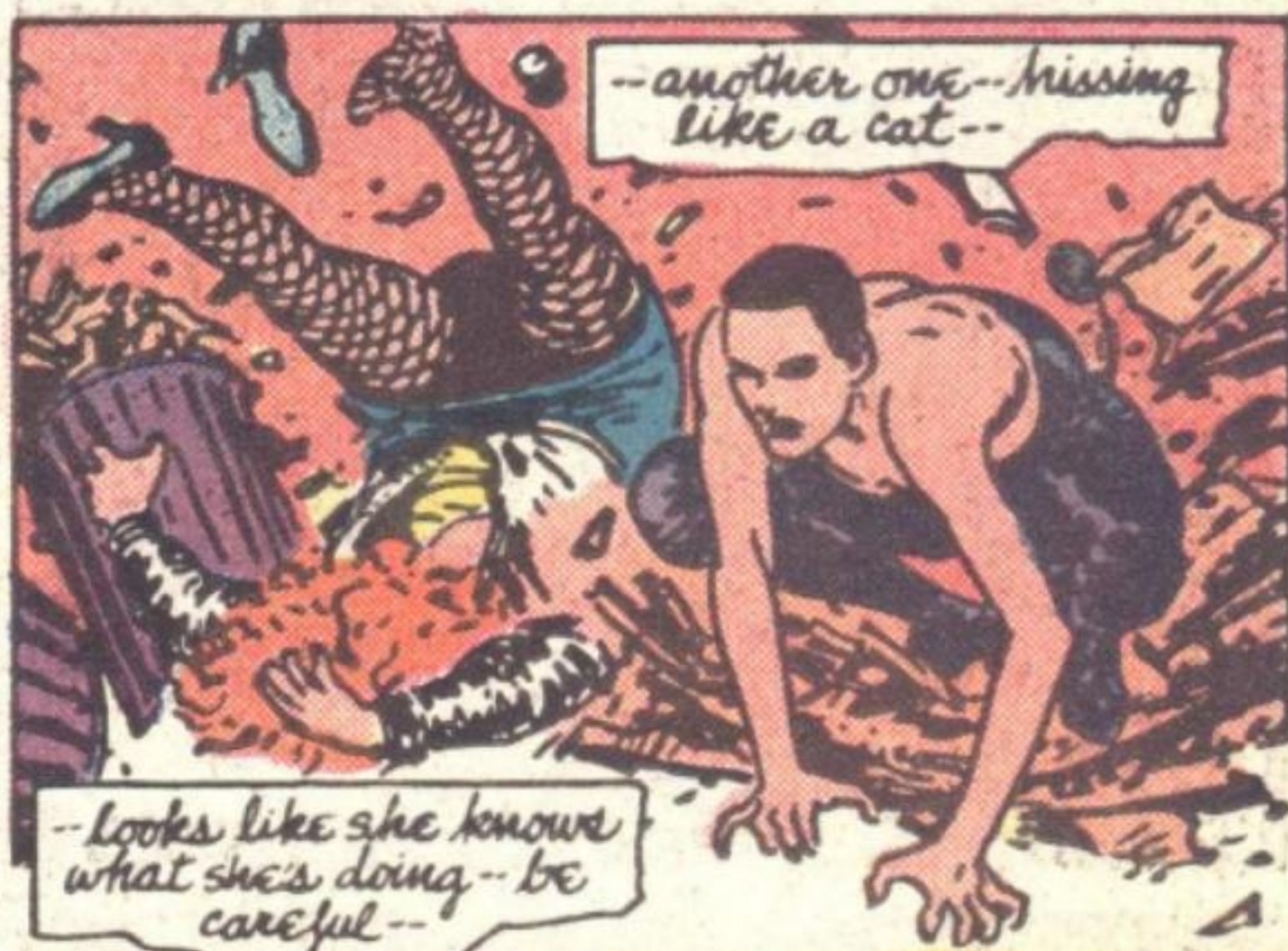
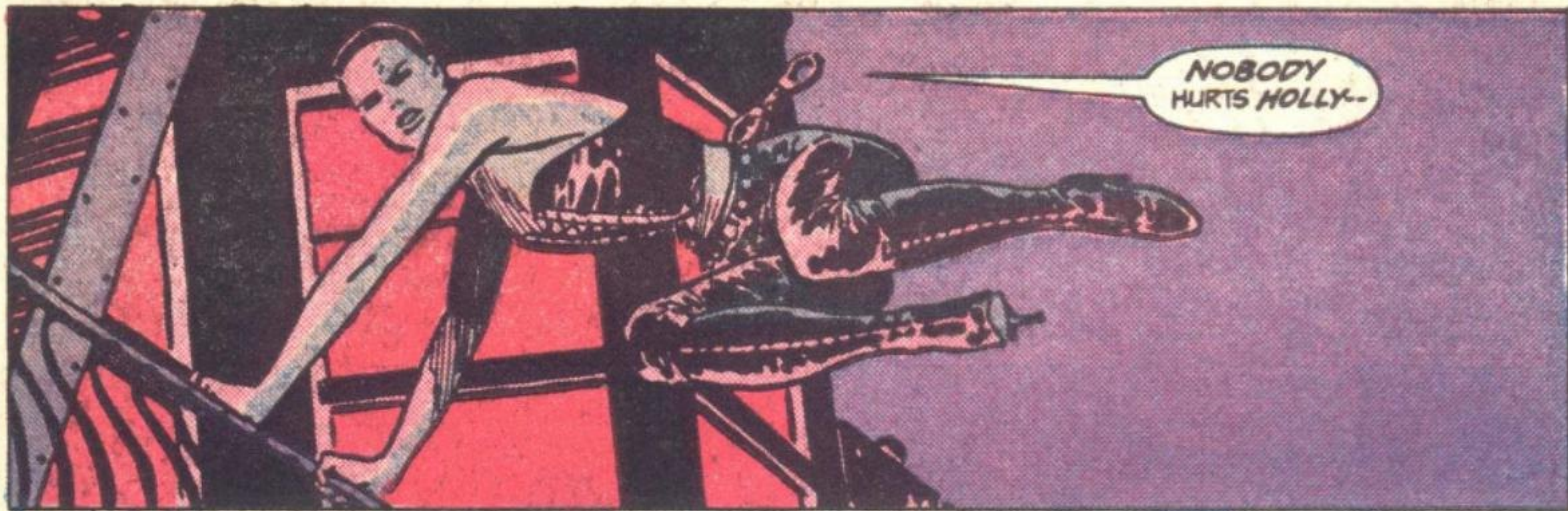


His eyes keep flicking away
from the girls to me. He
turns away for a second--

--a dead giveaway--

--he's pretty fast--







HEY--HE DIDN'T
MOVE, MAN.

HE WAS
GOING TO.

--hit an
artery--
losing
blood--

--get up--
before they--



NEEDS A
DOCTOR.

MAYBE
AFTER HE'S
BOOKED.

NNGG

--no-- can't
let them--



can't



ANY
CASH?

COUPLE
BUCKS. NO
I.D. ...

LOOK,
MAN--



--HE'S BLEEDING
ALL OVER THE SEAT.
WE GOT TO TAKE HIM
TO THE HOSPITAL.

YOU LOOK, BOY.
I'VE RUN IN A THOUSAND
LIKE HIM. DRIFTERS.
WHO NEEDS THEM.



IF HE
DIES,
HE--

YOU TWO.

STOP THE
CAR. GET
OUT.



WHAT THE
HELL ...

DON'T MIND HIM,
BOY. PROBABLY HOPPED
UP ON SOMETHING
FAST, Y'KNOW?

I
WARNED
YOU.



OH
MY GOD--
HE--



SMOKE FROM THE
BLAZING POLICE CRUISER
CAN BE SEEN FOR BLOCKS—
THE TWO OFFICERS WERE
FOUND UNCONSCIOUS,
THIRTY FEET AWAY...



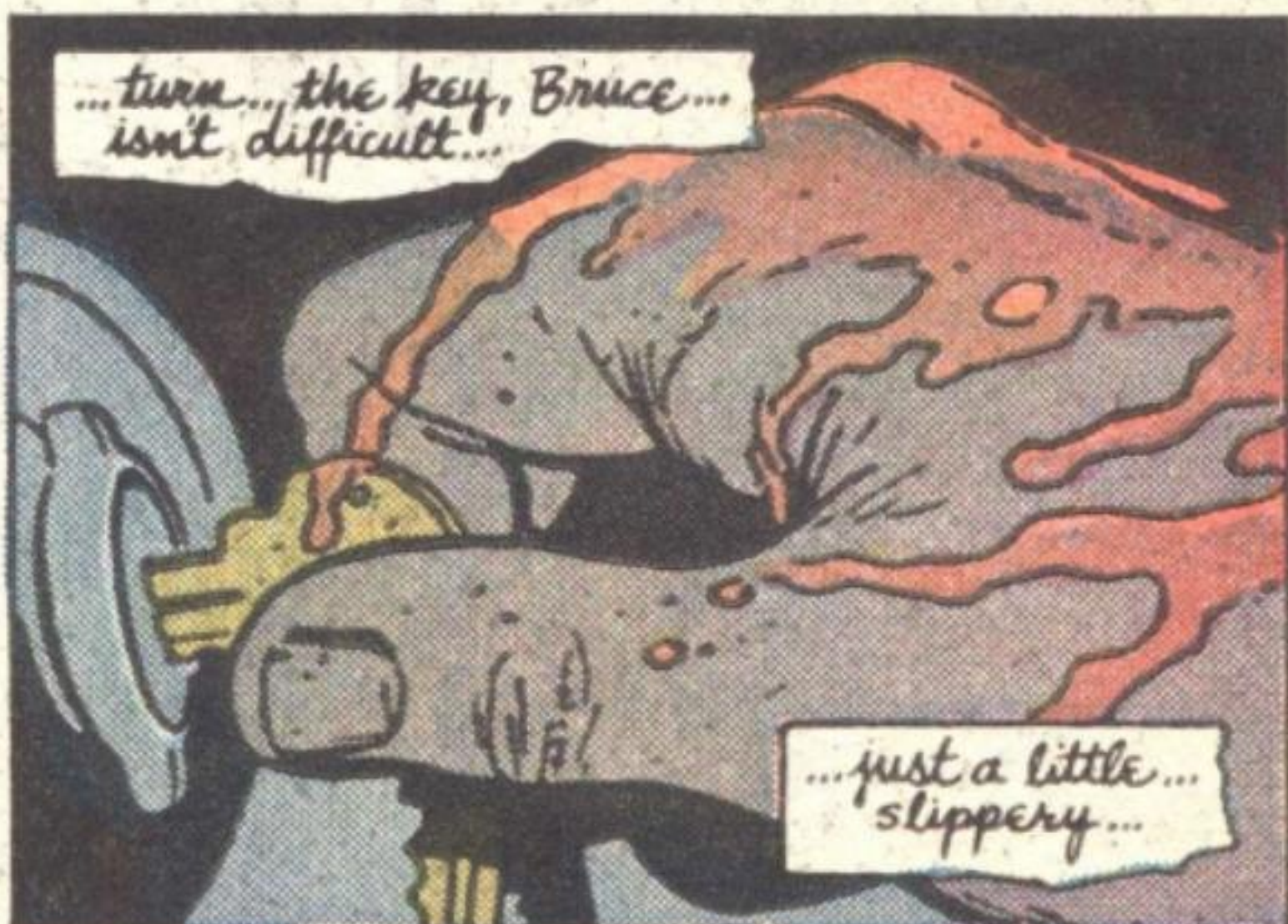
...made it... somehow...
must've made it
here... to the car...

...hope I didn't... do anything
stupid... getting here...



...done enough...
wrong tonight...

...turn... the key, Bruce...
isn't difficult...



...just a little...
slippery...

They did just enough
to keep me out of
the hospital...

...can't let
Barbara see
me like this...

DETECTIVE FLASS?
HE'S OFF DUTY, LIEUTENANT.
PROBABLY AT THE POKER
PARTY OVER AT CHUTE'S.

WITH
THE
GUYS.



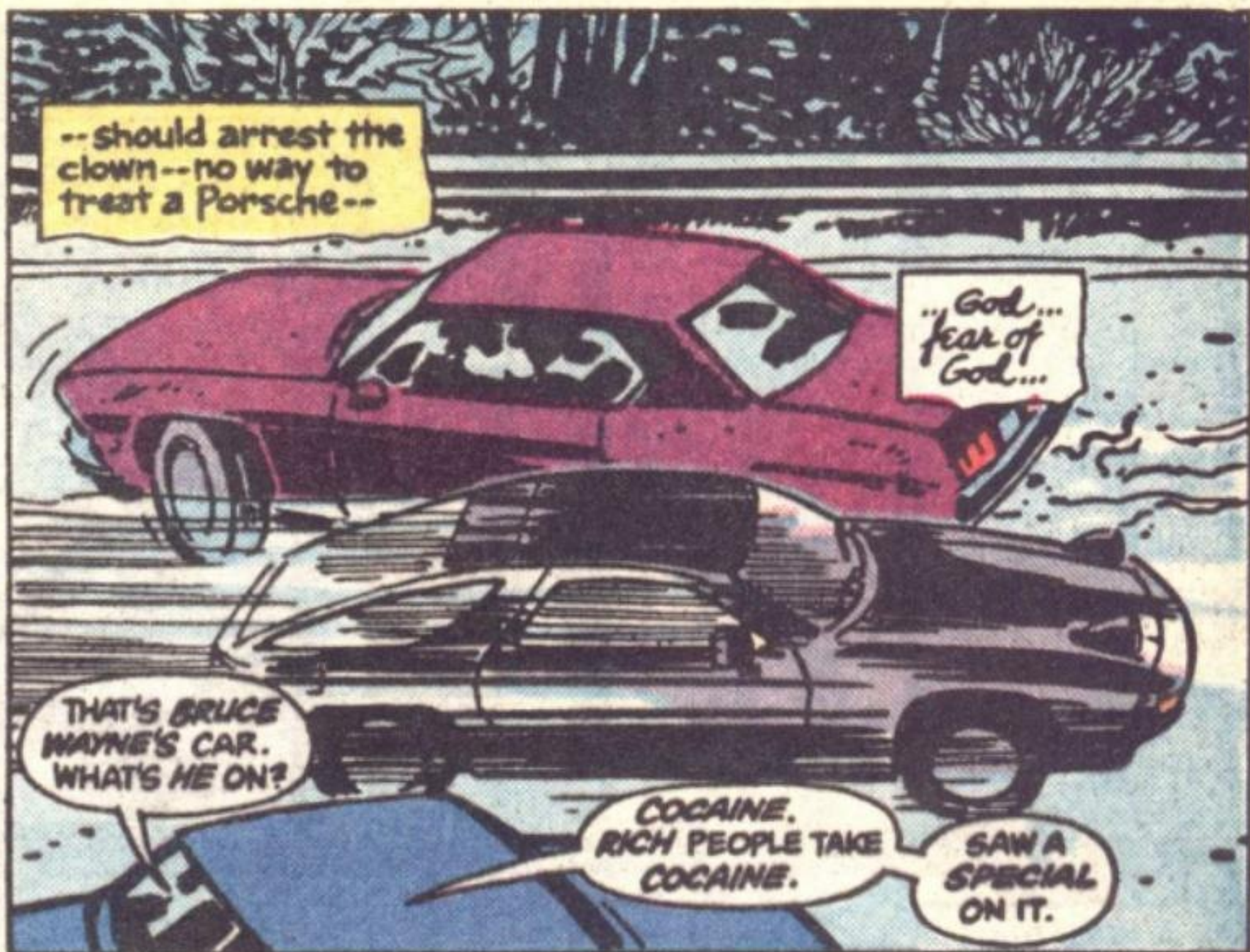
The guys.





Maniac--
almost hit
me--

SKREEE!



--should arrest the
clown--no way to
treat a Porsche--

...God...
fear of
God...

THAT'S BRUCE
WAYNE'S CAR.
WHAT'S HE ON?

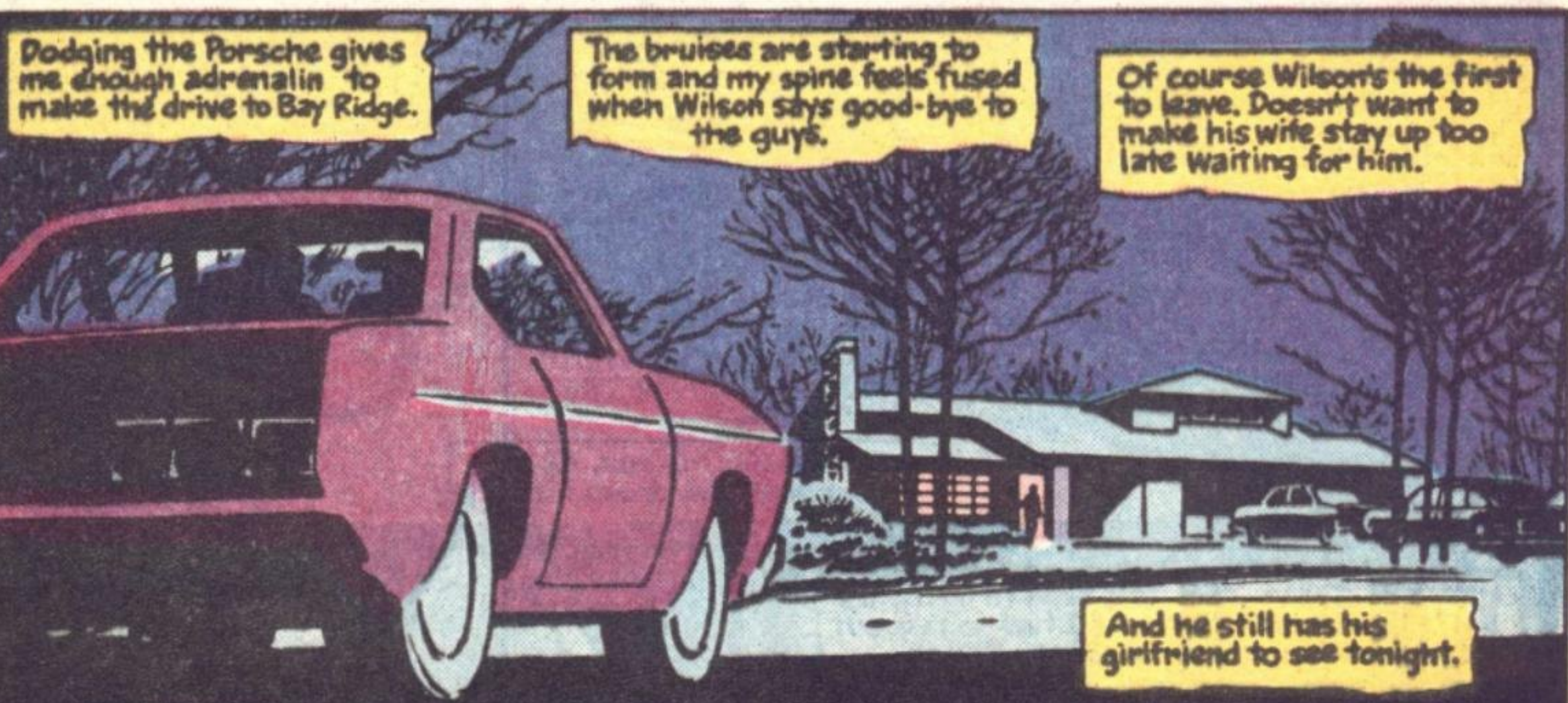
COCAINE.
RICH PEOPLE TAKE
COCAINE.

SAW A
SPECIAL
ON IT.



...fear...

...I have to make
them afraid...



Dodging the Porsche gives
me enough adrenalin to
make the drive to Bay Ridge.

The bruises are starting to
form and my spine feels fused
when Wilson says good-bye to
the guys.

Of course Wilson's the first
to leave. Doesn't want to
make his wife stay up too
late waiting for him.

And he still has his
girlfriend to see tonight.



Twenty minutes later
Stannsen stumbles out,
hunched over like he's
lost his life savings.

Then Renny.

I let them
both go home.

Finally.

Flass.

He staggers to his station wagon and gets in. It only takes him two tries.

I hear his engine start and watch him pull out. He almost flattens the mailbox before he remembers to turn his lights on.

I keep mine off and follow.

I haven't seen a house in three minutes when I pull up beside him and jerk the wheel.

He's ten miles over the speed limit.

Not fast enough to kill him when he hits the tree.

I show him my gun. He says my name and drops his.


He's big.

Green Beret training.


It's been fifteen years since I had to take out a Green Beret.

Even so--


--he deserves a handicap.

A close-up of Batman's arm and hand as he swings a wooden baton. He is wearing a black tactical vest with "GOTHAM HIGH" written on it in white letters. The background is a dark, textured blue.

I don't crack his skull.

A close-up of Batman's face as he uses the baton to choke a criminal. The criminal's face is visible in the background, looking up in pain. The background is a dark, textured blue.

I don't crush his larynx.

A wide shot of Batman walking away from a criminal who is lying on the ground in a wooded area. The scene is dark with bare trees in the background.

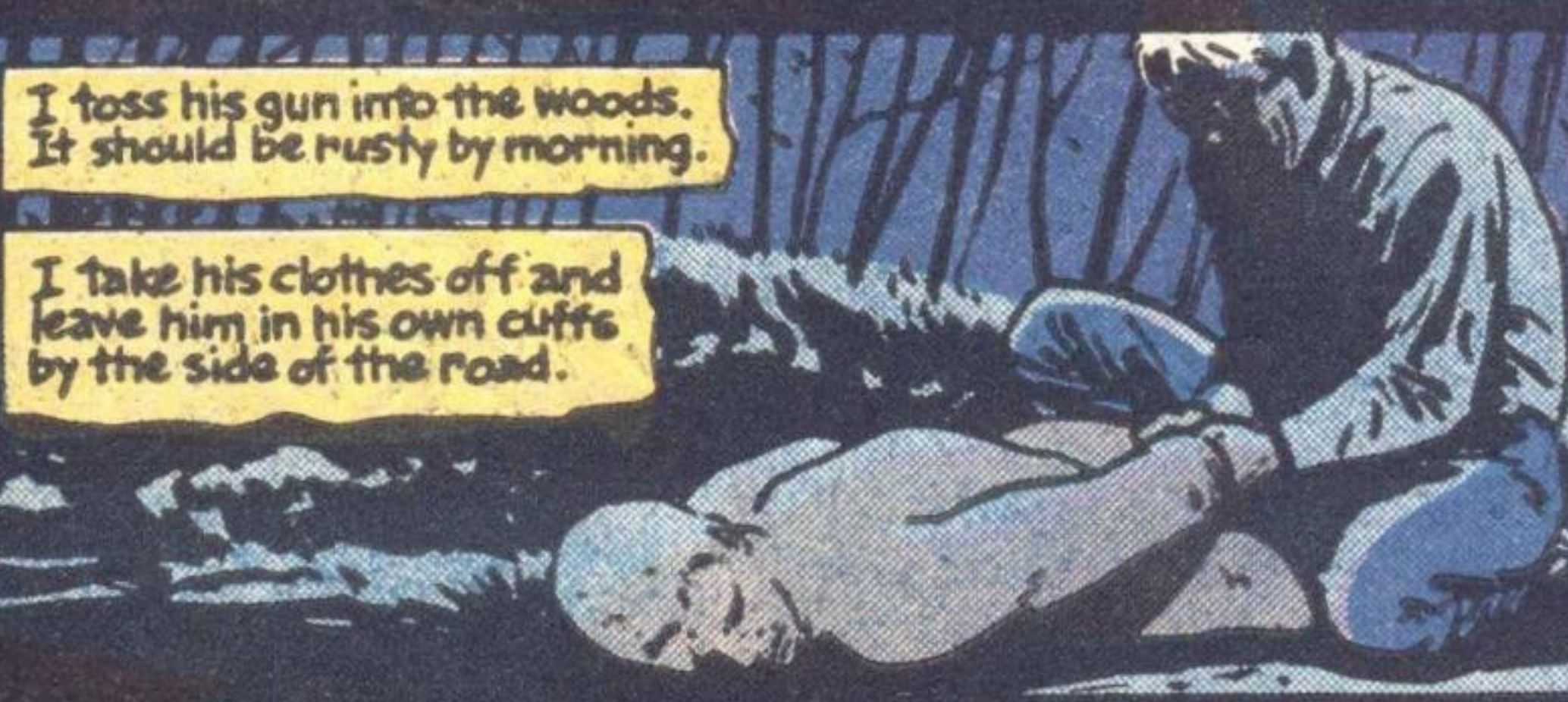
I don't break his ribs or punch my hand through his chest.

A criminal lies on his back on the ground in a wooded area, looking up at the sky. The scene is dark with bare trees in the background.

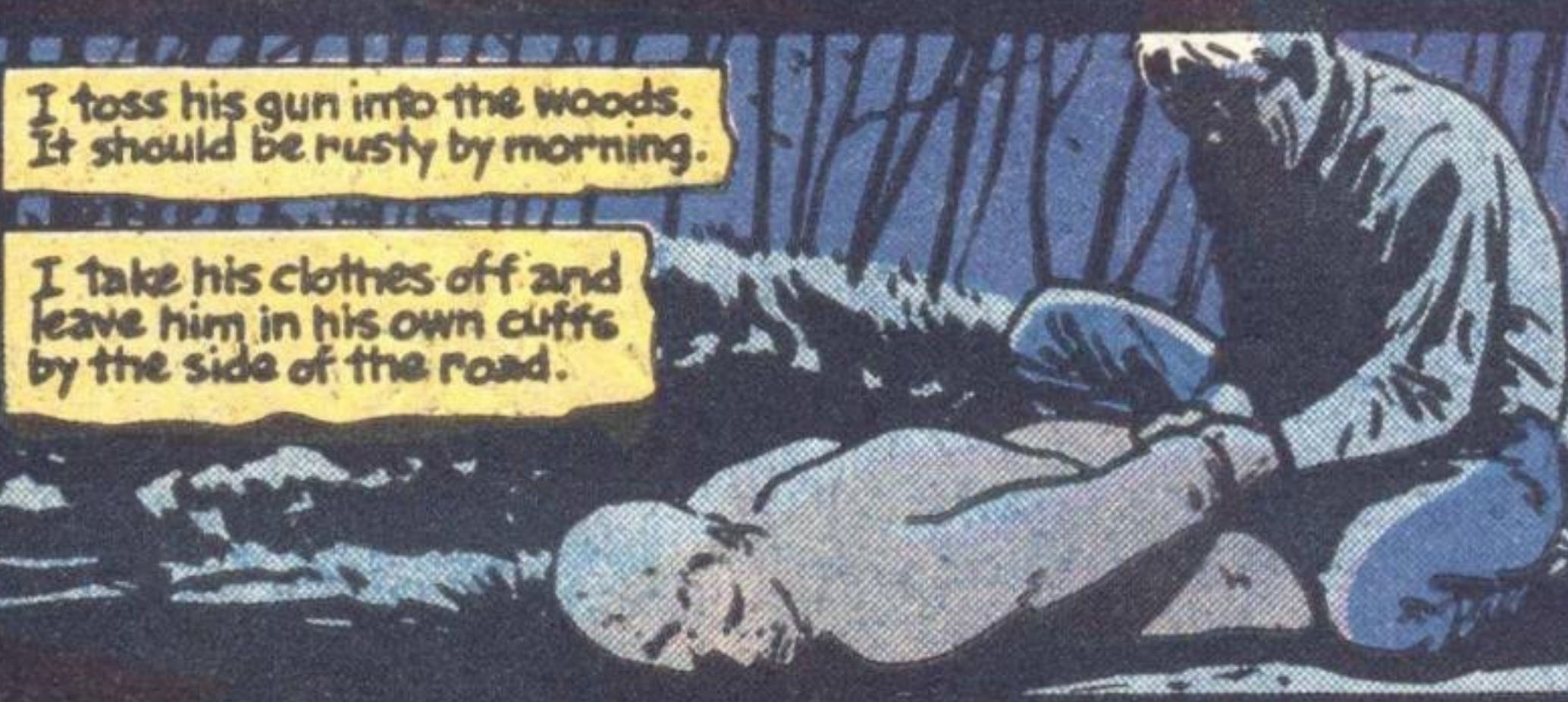
I do just enough--

A criminal lies on his back on the ground in a wooded area, looking up at the sky. The scene is dark with bare trees in the background.

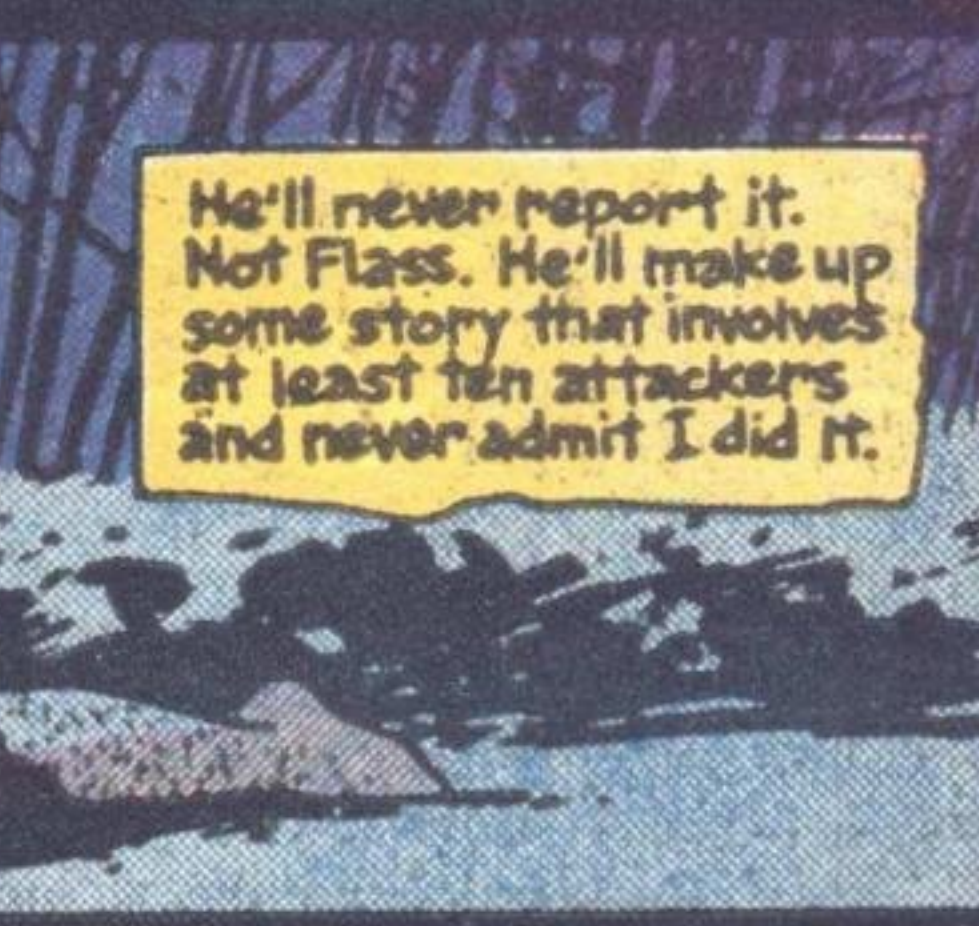
--to keep him out of the hospital.

Batman is shown from the waist down, removing the pants of a criminal who is lying on the ground. The criminal is wearing blue pants and a white shirt. The scene is dark with bare trees in the background.


I toss his gun into the woods. It should be rusty by morning.

Batman is shown from the waist down, removing the pants of a criminal who is lying on the ground. The criminal is wearing blue pants and a white shirt. The scene is dark with bare trees in the background.


I take his clothes off and leave him in his own cuffs by the side of the road.

A criminal lies on his back on the ground in a wooded area, looking up at the sky. The scene is dark with bare trees in the background.

He'll never report it. Not Flass. He'll make up some story that involves at least ten attackers and never admit I did it.

A close-up of Batman's face as he drives a car. He is wearing a black tactical vest and a black helmet. The background is a dark, textured blue.

But he'll know. And he'll stay away from Barbara.

A close-up of Batman's face as he drives a car. He is wearing a black tactical vest and a black helmet. The background is a dark, textured blue.

Thanks, Flass.

A close-up of Batman's face as he drives a car. He is wearing a black tactical vest and a black helmet. The background is a dark, textured blue.

You've shown me what it takes to be a cop in Gotham City.

Father...

...I'm afraid I may
have to die tonight.

I've tried to be
patient. I've tried
to wait.

But I have
to know.

How, father?

How do I do it?

If I ring this bell,
Alfred will come.

He can stop the
bleeding, in time.

Another of
your gifts to
me, father.

I have wealth. The family
manor rests above a huge
cave that will be the
perfect headquarters...

What do I use... to
make them afraid?

...even a butler with
training in combat medicine...

...yes, father. I
have everything
but patience.

I'd rather die...
than wait...
another hour.

I have waited...
eighteen years...

...eighteen years
... since...

...since Zorro.

The Mark
of Zorro.

Since the walk.
That night.

And the man with
frightened, hollow
eyes and a voice
like glass being
crushed...



...since
all sense
left my
life.



Without warning,
it comes...



...crashing through the
window of your study
...and mine...



...I have seen it
before... somewhere...

...it frightened me...
as a boy...



...frightened me...

...Yes,
Father.

I shall become
a bat.





BAT-SIGNALS

L-2583

DC Comics Inc.
666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103

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Dear Dennis,

Since BATMAN #401 is a LEGENDS cross-over and has the charismatic Glorious Godfrey as a guest-star, I think I know what LEGENDS is going to be about, so here it goes:

Darkseid has sent Godfrey to Earth in order to make people turn against their heroes. Godfrey, being the charismatic person that he is, has no problem with this (as seen on page 11, panel 2). Earth's peoples will begin to distrust their heroes and I believe the heroes will begin to mistrust each other, and even themselves. During this turmoil, Darkseid will strike.

I believe this series will bring out the true meaning of what a hero is, and what makes up a hero. Unfortunately, I expect some heroes won't take the strain and will switch sides of the law. Thank you for your time.

Bob Davidson
172 Talmadge Dr.
Springfield, MA 01118

P.S. In MAN OF STEEL #3, Batman had the golden age insignia on his chest, and in 401 he had the modern-day one. Which one survived the CRISIS?

Many (that's the understatement of the year, Randall!) astute (Hah! Trying to butter them up so they won't think it was a goof, eh?) readers have pointed out the disparity between the two Batmans (She's stalling—she hasn't got a good answer, just watch!) who met Magpie.

Evil tight-shoe-making Brownies crept into Production one night just before we sent the book to the printer, and look what they did! Yellow circles, everywhere! (Lame, girl, lame...) Actually, the circle makes its exit this issue, so the change really starts here, sort of. Trust me. Just don't think about it. O.K.? Just enjoy this wonderful series—aren't those Miller and Mazzucchelli guys doing great?

Dear Denny, etc.,

I guess, Denny, it's all your fault. You're just too d*** good. I got BATMAN #400 simply because of all the collaborations. Then I read Dick's *Meanwhile* column and decided to get #401. Well, #402 has Max Collins, acclaimed mystery writer (and "Jim" Starlin*), so I guess I'll have to buy that ... #403 has Collins again ... uh ... #404-407 has Miller ... uh...

Listen, Den, if you keep getting all these great people, I may be forced to

become a regular buyer of BATMAN, and it's all your fault.

Ethan Kalett
Brooklyn, NY

I think Denny should have lots more faults like you, Ethan, and they should all write letters.

Bat-Friends:

BATMAN #401 put chills down my spine and made me break out into a cold sweat.

What was it that caused me to do this, you may ask. Was it the cover by John Byrne or the story written by Barbara Randall and illustrated by Trevor Von Eeden?

No, it was neither of these.

I had just glanced at the cover briefly, and hadn't even looked at the story yet. What was it, then, that caused this unusual reaction?

Well, instinctively, for the past several weeks, my first order of business in reading BATMAN has been to turn directly to the letters page, wherein I would scan for news of upcoming Bat-events. It was here that I had first learned of the Dark Knight's mini-series, details of the blockbuster Batman anniversary issue, the upcoming Batman's First Year and Brian Bolland's graphic novel. In this month's letters page I was pleased to find an introduction by new Batman editor Denny O'Neil.

It was this that caused me to quiver in excitement and anticipation, as well as the previously described reaction.

It is apparent that Denny intends to return Batman's characterization to that of the avenger and protector of the rain-slick city streets of the asphalt jungle which bore him. Now, imagine my elation when I turned the page to find a pin-up by Brian Bolland (who, in his chapter in BATMAN #400 has replaced Neal Adams as my favorite Bat-artist) and my favorite quote of Raymond Chandler's (who has written a few hard-boiled tales of his own). I assume it was Editor O'Neil's selection to supplement Brian's beautiful artwork with this quote. (Yes.—BJR) It wouldn't surprise me that that good judgment came from Denny; of all the writers who have tackled the Batman over the years since the original Kane/Finger collaborations, it is only Denny who has captured the true essence of the character. His classic tales beautifully embellished by

Neal Adams will forever stand in my mind as the definitive Batman.

I guess what I am trying to say here is that I'm a little bit excited about where Batman is headed.

In parting I would like to make just a little suggestion (as if Denny needs any advice on how to do Batman) that you continue to let different writers and artists take a crack at Batman. Batman is a character who just seems to bring out the best in everybody. In the past I have particularly enjoyed stories written by Steve Englehart, David V. Reed, Mike Barr, Denny (of course), and currently Frank Miller. On the artistic side, I've really enjoyed Neal Adams, Marshall Rogers, Michael Golden, Walt Simonson, Paul Gulacy, Howard Chaykin and Berni Wrightson. Any chance we might see one or two of these fellows' work in the future? Perhaps even Denny himself could pen a few issues. Pretty please?

Well, anyways, congratulations, Denny—long may you reign.

Scott A. Caywood
1117 Alrita Ct. #3
Madison, WI 53713

For the time being, we're keeping Denny busy writing THE QUESTION, soon to come your way with some lovely art by Denys Cowan and Rick Magyar. None of the artists you've mentioned will be drawing Batman in the near future, but I think you'll enjoy the work of our new Bat-artist, due to debut in BATMAN #408. His name? Wait and see...

Dear Mr. O'Neil,

As I told your predecessor, I would return to BATMAN only under certain circumstances. Those circumstances have been met and I am back, hopefully to stay. Let me welcome you back to BATMAN. This was a title you always seemed to do your best on.

As for your first offering as an Editor, it was a distinct improvement over what has gone recently. Not perfect, mind you, but a distinct improvement.

Magpie shows the potential of becoming one of the feature's more interesting adversaries, provided she continues to grow and is not allowed to stagnate from neglect or indifference.

Barbara J. Randall's script was nicely done, and the plotting and pacing reminded me of the style of storytelling used in the old Batman TV show, only played straight. This was a refreshing